



Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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EPA COMPLETES 5-YEAR REVIEW OF OUTBOARD MARINE SITE;
CONTAMINANTS REMAIN CONTAINED, MONITORING TO CONTINUE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has recently completed a 5-year status review of the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) Superfund site, Waukegan, IL. The Superfund law requires reviews (at least every 5 years) of sites where cleanup has been completed, but where pollutants are contained and will be managed on-site.

The 37-acre site was contaminated by discharges of PCB hydraulic fluids from OMC manufacturing operations between 1961 and 1972. It is about 40 miles north of Chicago and 10 miles south of the Wisconsin State line.

EPA, in partnership with Illinois EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, supervised extensive cleanup at the site from 1989 to 1994. Work included removal of PCB-contaminated soils and sediments on both the property and in Waukegan Harbor. OMC built, maintained, and capped three containment cells at the site to permanently store the contaminated soils and sediments.

It also constructed a new boat slip to replace the one displaced by the project.

EPA monitoring of the site shows that the containment cells have been effective, and pumping, treating, and discharging of treated ground water is continuing. EPA expects that the monitoring--done by OMC--will last for decades to come.

The next 5-year review is scheduled for 2001.

A copy of the report is available at Waukegan Public Library, 128 North County St., or from Michael Bellot (SR-6J), U.S. EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL; 312-353-2000, or (outside Illinois) 800-621-8431.

PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of chemicals once widely used in industry as coolants and lubricants. Congress banned the manufacture of PCB's in 1979 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment --including in fresh-water fish and aquatic birds--and present human health hazards.

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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS: This news release is also available on the WWW at <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/news97/>